



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Dear Hydrogen Stakeholders:

Washington State has a significant opportunity to be a national leader in the development of the hydrogen supply chain with a vast array of public and private sector assets, including an excellent supply of renewable energy, businesses leading on developing additional hydrogen assets and esteemed research institutions in our state. In February, Governor Inslee sent a letter declaring Washington State's intention to pursue a federal Department of Energy (DOE) Hydrogen Hub (H2Hub) award through a public-private collaboration. The effort brings Washington's strengths in the growing, green hydrogen sector to the table to secure significant federal funding and jump start the state's transition to clean hydrogen in difficult-to-decarbonize sectors such as maritime, aviation, and heavy industry. In pursuit of a unified effort to win an H2Hub grant, Washington State's Department of Commerce (Commerce), in collaboration with Governor Inslee's office, industry leaders, local stakeholders and research entities, has:

- On March 21st, responded to the DOE Hydrogen Program's Request for Information (RFI) [#DE-FOA-0002664: Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Implementation Strategy](#). Additionally, regional partners interested in H2Hub collaboration submitted responses, such as the CHARGE Network and the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance, referencing the coordinated effort with Commerce. The State's RFI response is attached for reference.
- On March 23rd, incorporated the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association with the Washington Secretary of State as a non-profit entity. This is the intended public-private vehicle that will respond to the H2Hub Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) upon its expected release in May of this year and administer the Hub upon successful award by the DOE.

Additionally, the legislature took action passing [Senate Bill 5910](#), which will accelerate the availability and use of renewable fuels, including renewable hydrogen in Washington State. Bills brought at the request of the Governor and his budget office facilitate responsible siting of renewable and green hydrogen production and related product manufacturing ([House Bill 1812](#)) and provide tax incentives for these facilities, tied to strong labor provisions ([House Bill 1988](#)). The 2022 supplemental budget also appropriated \$2 million to the state's effort to pursue the H2Hub award.

These steps have strengthened Washington's formidable position in what promises to be a highly competitive, national competition with billions of dollars in hydrogen infrastructure investment at stake. Now that the foundation has been established, there is much work to be done. In the coming weeks, Commerce and interested stakeholders will:

- Establish a structure and governance model for the newly formed Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association (PNHA).
- Convene, on a regular basis, meetings to establish interest and participation in the PNHA. Commerce continues to stress the importance of participation from all stakeholders in the coming clean hydrogen economy, including communities, public entities, private industry, labor, and the research and workforce development communities. Engagement and partnership with Tribal nations is also a top priority. Some of these stakeholders are already participating in H2Hub discussions; for others, targeted outreach will occur to provide context and engage all stakeholders we believe to be critical to developing a competitive and impactful H2Hub. Commerce will continue to conduct outreach to bring in additional partners and interested organizations as this process unfolds.
- Continue engagement with our Congressional delegation to ensure the many advantages Washington enjoys in relation to the production and application of clean hydrogen are understood and shared with stakeholders and decision makers in Washington DC.
- Have the PNHA staffed and prepared to respond to the expected DOE H2Hub FOA in May of this year.

As we have said in the past, and will continue to emphasize, Washington brings a variety of incredible attributes to the table including our low-carbon energy generation capabilities, clean energy policies, leading environmental justice policy, and recognized private sector leadership. These attributes place us in a highly competitive position for the H2Hubs program, and we intend to use every advantage we have to win. We look forward to working with you to bring this investment to Washington State.

Please contact Jaclyn Perez (jaclyn.perez@commerce.wa.gov) if you have any questions or concerns about Commerce's efforts in this regard. We will provide more information on PNHA and how to engage, in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,



Lisa Brown
Director